

Cannon questions man s link to warming

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Chris Cannon said Wednesday that there is "no question that we have global warming," but there is a big question about how much is caused by humans.

He cautioned against sweeping government efforts to try to stop the warming trend.

"I never, ever said we don't have global warming. The question is whether it's caused by man or not and that is very, very unclear when you get into the science," Cannon said in a meeting with The Salt Lake Tribune editorial board. "The human cost of reducing [greenhouse gases] is so high we need to be thoughtful about what we do."

Cannon said he expects the free market will decide how to best tackle global warming, pointing to the popularity of hybrid vehicles, and said government mandates or joining the Kyoto Protocol to stem greenhouse gas emissions are the wrong paths to take.

"Invidious determinations by government would not make sense," he said.

Lawson LeGate, southwest regional director for the Sierra Club, said there is a broad consensus among scientists, articulated in the United Nations report on climate change, that humans are a significant cause of global warming.

"Therefore, obviously it's incumbent on us through a variety of means, including government requirements, that we reduce our output of greenhouse gases," he said. "With all due respect to Congressman Cannon, that train has left the station and it's too bad he's not on it."

LeGate contrasted Cannon's view with the actions of Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr., who he said has been showing "the kind of leadership that frankly I think all of Utah's elected officials" should be demonstrating.

Cannon criticized continued government subsidies of corn-based ethanol, which he said is inefficient and has driven up the cost of corn, hurting the world's poor.

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